MARVEL

X-MEN RED

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TAYLOR
ASRAR
SVORCINA

RATED T+

CENTRAL PARK,
NEW YORK.

XAVIER
NSTITUTE

CR
AC
K

CLCK

KITTY. PLEASE.

LISTEN TO ME.

LOWER YOUR VOICE, PETER. THERE ARE KIDS SLEEPING.

URGH. DRAMA.

WHAT'S THIS?

CAN YOU *SEE* ME, LITTLE MUTANT?

YOU CAN, CAN'T YOU? WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

KYLE.

AND DO YOU KNOW MY NAME, KYLE?

I THINK... YOU'RE *CASSANDRA NOVA.*

YOU'RE... SCARED OF HER.

AREN'T YOU?

NO ONE IN THIS BUILDING SHOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DETECT ME.

HOW FASCINATING.

IMAGINE WHAT YOU COULD HAVE BECOME.

CRCK

AH. HERE WE ARE.

YES. YOU CAN BE MY FIRST.

GO. PROTECT WAKANDA.

THE HATE MACHINE

PART 3: RISING STORM

JEAN GREY NIGHTCRAWLER TRINARY WOLVERINE HONEY BADGER

X-MEN RED

JEAN GREY IS AN OMEGA-LEVEL TELEPATHIC MUTANT WHO IS A FOUNDING MEMBER OF THE X-MEN. SHE DIED YEARS AGO. BUT LIKE A PHOENIX RISING FROM THE ASHES, JEAN HAS BEEN RETURNED TO LIFE. AND WHILE THE WORLD SHE'S RETURNED TO IS VERY DIFFERENT, ONE CONSTANT REMAINS: THE X-MEN STILL PROTECT A WORLD THAT HATES AND FEARS THEM.

JEAN GREY WANTS TO FIX THE WORLD. SHE SPOKE TO THE UNITED NATIONS IN THE HOPES OF BRINGING MUTANTS AND HUMANS TOGETHER, BUT INSTEAD ONLY DROVE THEM FURTHER APART WHEN SHE WAS FRAMED FOR THE PUBLIC, BRUTAL MURDER OF AN AMBASSADOR. THOUGH JEAN DOESN'T KNOW IT, CASSANDRA NOVA, THE POWERFUL TELEPATHIC SISTER TO CHARLES XAVIER, MURDERED THE AMBASSADOR TO FURTHER HER ANTI-MUTANT GOALS.

GRANTED CLEMENCY IN WAKANDA, JEAN AND HER TEAM WERE FORCED BACK INTO THE WORLD TO SAVE A NEW MUTANT NAMED TRINARY, WHO WAS IMPRISONED IN INDIA. ONCE AGAIN STEPPING INTO THE LINE OF FIRE, JEAN AND HER ALLIES FOUGHT TO ESCAPE WITH TRINARY AND DEFEAT THE ANGRY MOB UNDER CASSANDRA'S CONTROL.

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INDIA.
HEADQUARTERS OF THE MUTANT DEFENSE FORCE.

KEEP MOVING! DON'T LET THE SENTINEL TARGET YOU!

I'LL KEEP THE PROTESTERS ASLEEP AND THE OTHERS RESTRAINED.

KHOOOM

GABBY, GET TRINARY TO COVER!

NIGHTCRAWLER!

TELEPORT WOLVERINE UP THERE.

TOOM

ON IT, JEAN!

BAMF

SNIKT

SNIKT

RRRRRR!

SHNIKT

CHOOOM

COME ON, TRINARY!

MY SISTER IS ABOUT TO BRING EIGHT STORIES OF GIANT MUTANT-KILLING AUTOMATON CRASHING DOWN.

LETTING YOU GET CRUSHED TO DEATH WOULD REFLECT PRETTY BADLY ON YOUR WHOLE RESCUE.

AH, CRUD.

MOVE!!!

BOOOOOOM

NO!

GABBY...?

YOU...

SIT!

WOW

WHOA.

GABBY?

I THOUGHT... I THOUGHT YOU WERE DEAD!

DID YOU? YIKES. SORRY.

WHY *AREN'T* YOU DEAD?

THOSE ARE YOUR INTESTINES, RIGHT?

OH, YEAH. WHOOPS! I'LL JUST TUCK THEM BACK UP IN THERE.

NEVER MIND ME.

WHAT DID *YOU* DO?

SHE TOOK CONTROL OF THE SENTINEL.

HOW COULD A MUTANT TAKE CONTROL OF A SENTINEL? I THOUGHT THEIR PRIME DIRECTIVE WAS KILLING MUTANTS?

ACTUALLY, IT LOOKS LIKE THE MAJORITY OF THEIR PROGRAMMING IS TRACKING AND IDENTIFYING MUTANTS.

THAT'S FAR MORE COMPLICATED THAN SHOOTING AND STOMPING ON THINGS.

IT CAN STILL TRACK MUTANTS, BUT I'VE REMOVED THE KILLING.

IF I WANTED, I COULD RECODE IT TO TRACK DOWN MUTANTS AND COOK THEM A LIGHT MEAL.

I'D BE UP FOR A SENTINEL CHEF.

WHY AREN'T THOSE THREE PROTESTERS UNCONSCIOUS?

I COULDN'T REACH A PART OF THEIR MINDS.

THAT'S BECAUSE THE PROGRAM RUNNING IN THE SENTINEL IS ALSO RUNNING IN THEM.

INSIDE THIS WOMAN... UH. SHE CAN'T GET TO ME, RIGHT?

IT'S OKAY, TRINARY. I HAVE HER.

THE OPERATING SYSTEM IN THE ROBOT IS NOWHERE NEAR AS ADVANCED AS THIS.

BUT IT'S DEFINITELY THE SAME BASIC THING RUNNING IN THESE PEOPLE.

SHE'S A ROBOT?

NO. SHE'S HUMAN.

IT'S JUST...THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE IN THERE AS WELL.

EXACTLY.

CAN YOU TURN IT OFF?

IT'S NOT THAT EASY.

YOU JUST TOOK CONTROL OF AN ENTIRE GIANT ROBOT.

YEAH. RUNNING A SIMPLIFIED VERSION OF THIS PROGRAM FROM YEARS AGO.

AND NOT INSIDE A LIVING PERSON'S HEAD.

I'D NEED TIME.

WE DON'T HAVE TIME.

BETWEEN THE GIANT KILLING MACHINE, THE UNCONSCIOUS ANGRY MOB AND THE WHOLESALE DESTRUCTION, OUR COVERT ACTION ISN'T SO ***COVERT*** ANYMORE.

TIME TO GET OUT OF HERE.

OH...

HOW?

"...I THINK I KNOW HOW."

YOU'RE SURE?

I DON'T SEE WHY YOU CAN'T HAVE YOUR OWN GIANT ROBOT.

I FIGURE YOU'RE OWED AFTER THEY KIDNAPPED YOU.

HOW DID THEY FIND YOU?

THEY... THEY SAID MY FATHER TURNED ME IN.

THEY COULD HAVE BEEN LYING.

THEY WEREN'T.

I'M SORRY.

NO ONE SHOULD HAVE TO FACE REJECTION BECAUSE OF THE SMALL-MINDED PREJUDICE OF THE VERY PEOPLE WHO ARE SUPPOSED TO LOVE THEM UNCONDITIONALLY.

I SAW YOUR SPEECH AT THE U.N. YOU STILL THINK YOUR VISION IS POSSIBLE? EVEN AFTER WHAT HAPPENED?

I DO.

WE'LL START PLANNING AS SOON AS WE'RE BACK IN WAKANDA.

WE HAVE A HURDLE OR TWO IN OUR WAY, BUT WE'LL GET BACK THERE.

NO. THIS ISN'T JUST A HURDLE.

I'LL SHOW YOU. UM...DOES ANYONE HAVE A PHONE?

HERE. THE PASSWORD IS--

JONATHAN RULES. WITH A "Z."

KUH?

I'VE BEEN MONITORING A RISE IN ANTI-MUTANT PROPAGANDA ACROSS SOCIAL MEDIA.

OUR FEEDS ARE BEING FILLED WITH IT.

STORIES OF MUTANT VIOLENCE AND ACCIDENTS, HALF-TRUTHS TAKEN OUT OF CONTEXT OR OUTRIGHT LIES.

IT'S SPIKED OVER THE LAST MONTH. ALGORITHMS TARGETING PEOPLE WITH KNOWN BIASES AND CONCERNS.

STOKING THIS INTO FEAR. TURNING THIS FEAR INTO ANGER.

AND A LITTLE HIT OF DOPAMINE EVERY TIME SOMEONE LIKES A POST FILLED WITH INTOLERANCE...

IT'S ALL COORDINATED. I BELIEVE THE HUMAN RACE IS BEING PROGRAMMED TO HATE MUTANTS.

NO MUTANTS

LOUISIANA.

CARA.

IT'S NOT WORTH IT. PLEASE. DON'T DO ANYTHING.

SOMEONE HAS TO.

MUTIE.

NO

MY NAME IS CARA.

YOU DON'T GET A NAME.

NOW, NOW...

NO, IT ISN'T. NAMES ARE FOR IMPORTANT THINGS, LIKE PEOPLE AND DOGS.

FWOOOM

THP

MON DIEU. TWO GARDEN TORCHES FOR $12.99?

SO THIS IS HOW THEY AFFORDED THE CROWD SCENES IN FRANKENSTEIN?

IT'S OKAY, CHÉRIE. YOU CAN FLY AWAY.

WHY SHOULD I? THESE ARE MY STREETS, TOO, GAMBIT.

OKAY. JUS' TRY NOT TO GET SINGED.

HUH?

HEY!

TNK

TNK

TNK

BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
AGHHHH!
AGHHHH!
AGHHHH!
AGHHHH!
AGHHHH!
WELL...
THAT WAS JUST INCREDIBLY SATISFYING.
YOU, IN DA TRUCK. YOU SHOULD PROBABLY RUN LIKE YOUR FRIENDS.
SERIOUSLY, *HOMME*. Y' CAN'T REALLY CALL YOURSELVES A "MOB" IF YOU DON'T STICK TOGETHER.

MUTANT.

CLK

HEY. DON'T MAKE ME HURT YOU.

DON'T--

THP

BANG

STUPID. YOU COULD'VE--

CARA!

AH, NO.

I'M SO SORRY, CHÈRE.

ARE WE THERE YET?

WE'RE FLYING THROUGH THE AIR ON A ROBOT. YOU CAN'T JUST ENJOY THE RIDE?

OH, DEFINITELY... ARE WE THERE YET?

YES. WE'RE ALMOST THERE. PLEASE. *PLEASE* STOP ASKING.

UM, HAS ANYONE CALLED AHEAD TO LET THEM KNOW WE'RE ARRIVING ON A GIGANTIC KILLING MACHINE?

I'LL REACH OUT TO T'CHALLA.

WHAT'S THAT? OVER WAKANDA?

ARE WE RIDING A GIANT METAL MAN INTO A LIGHTNING STORM?

THAT'S NOT JUST A STORM...

"...THAT *IS* STORM."

PROTECT WAKANDA.

ABOMINATIONS.

KRAKOA

TO BE CONTINUED!

SEND YOUR LETTERS TO
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Mark Paniccia -- Editor
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RED LETTER DAY

X-MEN RED is a breath of fresh air for the merry mutants! I'm not one for nostalgia, so to have a book that isn't based around recapturing that old feeling, and instead building something all new and all different, is exciting. It feels more like a sequel than a just a repeat of what came before. If Grant Morrison's NEW X-MEN was BLADE RUNNER, this is BLADE RUNNER 2049.

The team is nothing we've really seen before, and I'm excited to see how Jean, Nightcrawler, Namor, Wolverine, Honey Badger, Gentle, Trinary and Gambit (AHHH! Gambit's my favorite, I'm so freaking excited for #3!) interact with each other. The art was beautiful, Mahmud and Ive killed it! The scene with Jean and Kurt on the cliff was wonderful.

Thank y'all so much for making such a beautiful comic.

(And once again: Woo! Gambit!)

- Taylor

Thanks, Taylor! While I love where the X-Men have come from, I definitely wanted to push forward into new territory with X-MEN RED. I wanted this to feel like now. I thought this was especially important given Jean has been gone for so long, and how she would react to this current world is a big part of what informed this story. Hope you liked Gambit's entrance into issue #3--though maybe not what came next.

I'm intrigued by X-MEN RED. It has a unique feel to it, and is different than all the other mutant books. I love it when a team has a purpose and a reason for existence. I look forward to how this team develops.

Regards,
John

Thanks, John! This is definitely a team with purpose, and we'll start to understand exactly what they're up against in issues #3 and #4. And the team will continue to grow.

Dear X-MEN RED team,

I finished issue #1 of X-MEN RED, probably for the fourth time, and I was so happy afterwards.

I love the team (of heroes, and the creative team behind that comic as well) and I love the premise. I really loved that every character's presence in the story appeared so naturally. No one felt forced into the situation; everyone was there because they needed to be, and made sense at the moment. I especially like the way Namor is present and how he, Laura, Gabby and Kurt, without hesitating a moment, sprang into action as soon as Jean needed them.

Big shout-out to Tom Taylor and Mahmud Asrar for great storytelling, pacing and astonishingly gorgeous art. You guys are doing an amazing job here. I really hope that this series will reach issue #100 and beyond.

Can't wait to see Nightcrawler's beard.

Greetings from Germany,
Michael

Cheers, Michael! And yes. We never wanted to have this team come together because they were the list of names we had. The story needs this team. Also, while a lot of fans are looking forward to Gambit joining the team, I think just as many are looking forward to seeing Nightcrawler's beard join X-MEN RED--Mahmud Asrar certainly is.

I've been an X-Men fan for as long as I can remember, and watching Jean Grey come back to the Marvel Universe in such a wonderful manner is truly moving. She's been missed, and I believe that this is the right time to see her join and participate in such important affairs as we have seen so far. Perhaps the mutant revolution could have been avoided through Jean's ways to deal with the world's leaders? The mutants have been through enough suffering. I hope that this is the right way at last. Jean is smart, and I really appreciated how she managed to talk the Phoenix out of its hold on her.

So, thanks to the team of X-MEN RED for doing an amazing work so far; I've enjoyed reading it! This is exactly what I missed from Jean: living as the soul of the X-Men. #jeangreywasright

Daniel Casanova

Hi, Daniel! Glad Jean's return worked so well for you. Couldn't agree more with what you're saying. Jean is a woman of empathy and compassion. How she goes about saving the world comes from this place. Which is especially impressive, considering she's powerful enough to just throw any problematic person off of a building.

Hi guys,

First of all, let me say how wonderful it was to see Jean back in action, as a character in and of herself, and not as a hinge to hang another's story on, or a tragedy who exists only to propel the story of a man.

Tom Taylor knows how to get into the head of his characters, and he has a knack for helping them grow. I loved the little nods and throwbacks to X-history in Mahmud Asrar's art. That scene on the cliff, where Jean showed Nightcrawler her plan, echoed the view Kurt had from heaven during the arc of his own resurrection, the view that goes on forever, and I loved that symbolism--a paradise that might not ever be obtainable, but that is worth fighting for.

I'm loving the feel of the team that you've put together. I'd not encountered Honey Badger before, and I nearly died from an overdose of adorableness. She's like a tiny, vicious sugar rush.
This book seems like a prescient take on the world we are inhabiting right now. I am in love with the way that evil functions in the context of this story--this feels like it could be an important book. I can't wait to see what happens next.

Please don't let Tom Taylor kill off anyone in it. I know that he just LOVES doing that. :-)

All the best,
Bethany W Pope

Hi, Bethany! You're absolutely right. This is Jean's story, and her story won't play second fiddle to anyone else's. This is about Jean's vision for a better world and the fight ahead of her. I know Jean's role has often been defined by her proximity to Scott and Logan. But in X-MEN RED, Jean has bigger things to do than worrying about some overly possessive guys. She has a world to save.

And I'm very glad you liked Honey Badger so much. We created her in ALL-NEW WOLVERINE less than three years ago, and it's amazing to see how many fans have connected with her. She's a lot of fun to write.

I've been an X-fan for a very long time. But to confess, I was never into Jean Grey and even less into Phoenix.

But PHOENIX RESURRECTION was good and I decided to give X-MEN RED a shot. And I'm glad I did. The story and the characterization of Jean are compelling, in that I'm now seeing her character in a completely different light.

And I have to say the page where Jean is levitating, unsure of what to do, but wanting to help, is incredible. I found it inspiring, especially in light of what's going on in world events outside of comic books. So thank you for this book, which gave me a new character to follow. And thank you for her words and that panel, which gave new inspiration to this 40-year-old guy who doesn't always know what to do, but wants to help.

Tom Chansky
Columbus, Ohio

We live in interesting times, and I don't think you're alone in wanting to help, but not being sure how to do so. I'm glad Jean can give you a bit of inspiration every month, and I'm sure you'll find a way to go on out and help somewhere.

Tom Taylor

TWEETS

#XMenRed 1 reminded me why I love reading X-Men comic books. There is something about the way @TomTaylorMade tells a story, you just know it's going to grab you & make you anticipate the next issue. This one did just that and then some. This is the X-book to read!

--Mike
@mksystem74

#XMenRed, I love it! I'm really excited to see this team form along with their dynamic as a group, and to learn more about Gentle and Trinary as the story goes on!

--Sean Dolan
@Steampunkphreak

Having Laura, Gabby (Go, Gabby!), Nightcrawler and Jean Grey in a team written by @TomTaylorMade and drawn by @MahmudAsrar proved to be an amazing combination. Loved every panel of it. Can't wait for issue 2.

--Mika
@M1kaBer

It's astounding how just bringing Jean back has vastly improved the feel and spirit of the X-Men. It feels like the X-Men are back and there is hope once more. #Xmenred Okay to print

--Lauren Jade
@thelilperson

X-MEN RED #4

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ZONE